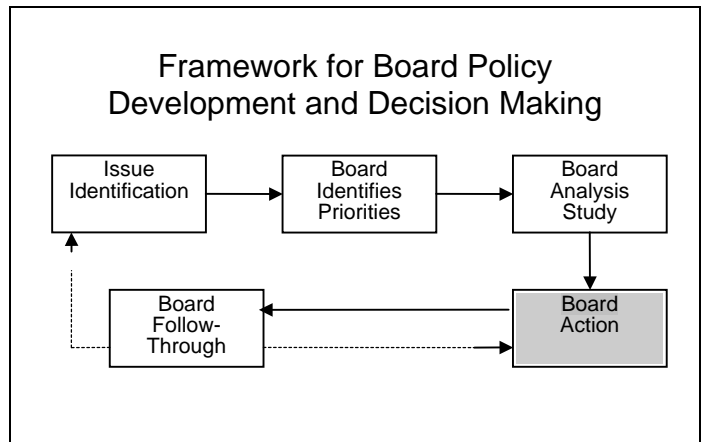


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

May 11, 2006



Agenda Item:	Charter School Request for Approval (Dubuque)
Iowa Goal:	All K-12 students will achieve at high levels, prepared for success beyond high school.
Equity Impact Statement:	Iowa public charter schools are required to be open to all students in accordance with Iowa's non-discrimination policies.
Presenter:	Debbie Boring, School Improvement Consultant Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education
Attachments:	1
Recommendation:	It is recommended that the State Board approve the charter status of Prescott Elementary Charter School.
Background:	The 2002 Legislature enacted a limited public charter school law. The Iowa Department of Education was also successful in receiving public charter school funding from the United States Department of Education up to \$400,000 per school for a 36-month period. Each local school board has approved the charter school application as well as the teachers and parents of students impacted by the charter school application. In accordance with Iowa Code, the State Board of Education must approve the application for charter school status. The Dubuque charter application was reviewed by a seven-person team using specific criteria.

Currently Seeking Approval from the State Board of Education

Charter Name: Prescott Elementary, An Expeditionary Learning School for the Arts

District: Dubuque Community School District

Superintendent: John Burgart

Contact: Chris McCarron

Description: The proposed charter school will be an elementary school serving students in kindergarten through fifth grades. The instructional design of the school will intertwine the following school reform models: Expeditionary Learning, Outward Bound, Iowa's Positive Behavior Support Initiative, and a visual and performing arts infused curriculum. In addition, the school will include a day care for infants and toddlers of high school students in the Dubuque Community School District, two grant-funded preschool programs, and one Headstart Preschool Program.

The school will provide instruction in traditional academic subjects through in-depth, challenging, thematic learning expeditions with a strong emphasis on the arts. The arts will be utilized to teach all academic subjects. In addition, learning expeditions will include a strong service learning component that links student learning to real-world application.

Rationale: The instructional design will more actively engage students in the learning process and make stronger connections between their academic learning and their application of learning to the real world. The multi-disciplinary in-depth learning expeditions that include learning opportunities within the community, bringing community experts into the classroom, incorporating service learning opportunities, and infusing the arts throughout the curriculum, will motivate and engage students. The infusion of the arts throughout the curriculum provides students with increased and diversified opportunities to understand the world around them. As students are more actively engaged in the learning process and their learning is connected to the world around them, their motivation for school and learning will increase. Increased motivation will serve to increase student attendance and ultimately, student achievement.